

What is claimed is :

1. An apparatus which acquires position information about a user of plural types of
5 information terminals different in position information communication system, comprising:

a terminal determination unit determining a type of the information terminal depending on data transmitted from an information terminal of the
10 user; and

a position information extraction unit extracting position information about a user from the data transmitted from the information terminal in response to the determination result.

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2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

an accounting unit performing an accounting process depending on an entry of a user in a system
20 including the information terminal user position information acquisition apparatus.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said terminal determination unit can determine
25 a type of the information terminal depending on the

data transmitted from an information terminal in a system of announcing position information when a service is requested to an external device.

5 4. The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising

a communications system and/or data conversion unit converting data transmitted from an information terminal in a system of regularly or 10 irregularly announcing position information when a service is not requested to an external device into the same communications system and/or data format as the data from the information terminal in the system of announcing position information when the 15 service is requested to the external device in plural types of information terminals, wherein

said terminal determination unit determines a type of an information terminal in a system of regularly or irregularly announcing position 20 information when a service is not requested to an external device.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

25 a user authentication unit authenticating a

user of a terminal which has announced position information using data from an information terminal of a system of announcing position information when a request is issued to an external device, or data 5 converted by the communications system and/or data conversion unit; and

a position information storage unit storing position information extracted by a position information extraction unit together with 10 information about the terminal determined by said terminal determination unit.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising

15 an application linking apparatus for link with an application of a service provider for providing a service for a user, wherein

said application linking apparatus can further comprise a position information retrieval unit for 20 retrieving position information about specified user by said position information storage unit, and notifying the application side of the information.

7. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

25 each time position information is announced

from an information terminal of a user, said terminal determination unit can determine the type of information terminal, said position information extraction unit can extract position information,
5 and said position information storage unit can store latest position information and terminal information.

8. The apparatus according to claim 3, further
10 comprising:

a user authentication unit authenticating a user of a terminal which has announced position information; and

15 a position information storage unit storing position information extracted by said position information extraction unit together with information about the terminal determined by said terminal determination unit corresponding to an authenticated user, wherein

20 when position information is simultaneously announced from a plurality of information terminals of the user, a policy of prioritizing position information from which information terminal is set as a system operation environment; and

25 said position information storage unit can

store position information from an information terminal prioritized by the policy.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, further
5 comprising

an application linking apparatus for link with an application of a service provider for providing a service for a user.

10 10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein
said application linking apparatus comprises
an event notification unit for receiving
designation of a condition including an area from a
service provider in advance, and notifying the
15 application side of the data relating to the user
when the user satisfies the designated condition.

11. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein
said application linking apparatus comprises a
20 position information reformat unit for receiving a
request from a service provider, and reformatting
position information about a user extracted by the
position information extraction unit.

25 12. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

5 said application linking apparatus comprises
an accounting unit for performing an accounting
process for a service provider a service provider
on the communications established between a service
provider and a user by a link with an application.

13. A method for obtaining position information
about a user of plural types of information
terminals different in position information
10 notification system, comprising:
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 determining a type of an information terminal
by the data transmitted from an information
terminal of a user; and

15 extracting the position information about the
user from the data transmitted from the information
terminal depending on a determination result.

14. A computer-readable storage medium storing a
program used to direct a computer forming an
apparatus for obtaining position information about
20 a user of plural types of information terminals
different in position information notification
system, comprising the steps of:
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 determining a type of an information terminal
25 by the data transmitted from an information

terminal of a user; and

extracting the position information about the user from the data transmitted from the information terminal depending on a determination result.

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15. A program used to direct a computer forming an apparatus for obtaining position information about a user of plural types of information terminals different in position information notification system, comprising the procedures of:

determining a type of an information terminal by the data transmitted from an information terminal of a user; and

extracting the position information about the user from the data transmitted from the information terminal depending on a determination result.

16. A system of obtaining, managing, and using a status and a position of a user in an information terminal, comprising:

a service synchronous position information acquisition unit for acquiring position information about an information terminal according to a first communications protocol which announces position information when a user requests a service; and a

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service asynchronous position information acquisition unit for converting various communications protocol depending on the information terminal into the first communications 5 protocol when the user requests a service, and transmitting the position information to the service synchronous position information acquisition unit according to the converted first communications protocol, characterized in that said 10 service synchronous position information acquisition unit comprises: a position information management unit for managing the status and position information acquired according to the first communications protocol for each user; and an 15 application link unit capable of retrieving service information according to the status and position information about a user from a user database and notifying a service provider of the information.

20 17. The system according to claim 16, wherein
said service synchronous position information acquisition unit absorbs the difference in the technology of the information terminal and the carrier, and acquires the position information 25 about a user.

18. An apparatus which acquires position information about a user of plural types of information terminals different in position
5 information communication system, comprising:

a terminal determination means for determining a type of the information terminal depending on data transmitted from an information terminal of the user; and

10 a position information extraction means for extracting position information about a user from the data transmitted from the information terminal in response to the determination result.